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SIEGES.—No. I.

1. **SIEGE OF GRENADA, 1487.**—King Ferdinand meditated the investment of Granada; but knowing the strength and resources of the place, he delayed the siege, saying—“We must have patience and perseverance. By ravaging the country this year, we shall produce a scarcity the next, and then the city may be attacked with effect.” Ferdinand did not suffer his plans of desolation to loiter. On the eve of harvest, when the fields were ready for the sickle, he detached parties in every direction to scour the country. Villages were sacked, burnt, and destroyed, and the lovely vale once more laid waste with fire and sword.*

2. **SIEGE OF SIENNA.**—Sienna was besieged in the sixteenth century by the forces of the Emperor Charles the Fifth. After holding out through great extremity, and losing vast numbers of the peaceable inhabitants by famine and sickness, the garrison subsisted for some days by feeding on the weeds gathered off the city walls, and dipped in the lamp-oil of the churches. The expedient however soon failed, and at length they surrendered themselves, a company of moving skeletons, into the hands of the Spaniards.†

3. **SIEGE OF ISMAIL.**—This strong and flourishing town, situated on the Turkish side of the Danube, was coveted by the Empress Catharine, and besieged by Suwarow, and a large Russian force. After a slaughter of near forty thousand men on both sides, Ismail was taken by storm, December 23, 1790, and given up to pillage by the Russian general. The unoffending inhabitants were exposed to violence and massacre during three days, and very few of them escaped with their lives.

4. **SIEGE OF FLUSHING, 1809.**—Flushing was attacked by a British force in the Walcheren expedition, and surrendered in December, after a siege of about four months. Almost every building in Flushing suffered from the terrible effects of the bombardment, and the town was reduced to an entire ruin. Many of the inhabitants, finding their houses no defence against the shells and rockets, took shelter in the vaults and cellars; but such was the force of these projectiles that they were buried in the ruins, and mostly perished. The few survivors were nearly famished by privations, and reduced to despair; and it was remarked that they looked like persons who had lately escaped from the tombs. The English army in great numbers fell victims to the Walcheren fever, and other diseases; and of those who returned home many more died of inveterate agues, contracted in that fatal climate.‡

5. **STORMING OF BELGRADE, 1689.**—Belgrade was besieged by the Austrians, and assaulted at five points at once; all these divisions were however repulsed with dreadful loss on both sides, though the place was afterwards surrendered by the Turks. “Nothing could be more brilliant or more sanguinary,” says Prince Eugene, who commanded the Imperialists, “yet how strangely one may find *amusement* amidst scenes of horror. I shall never forget the appearance and grimaces of the Jews who were compelled to throw into the Danube the bodies of 12,000 men, killed on both sides, to spare the trouble and expense of burying them.”§

* Conquest of Granada, Vol. II, p. 271.
† Paterson’s Memoirs.

‡ Montluc’s Memoirs.
§ Memoirs of Prince Eugene.

6. **SIEGE OF LISLE, 1708.**—This strong town was defended to desperation by the French, against the allied forces under Prince Eugene. He says, “I directed two assaults to be made to facilitate the assault of a covered way, but was always repulsed with a horrible carnage. Five thousand English sent me by Marlborough, to retrieve my loss, performed wonders, but were thrown into disorder. We heard the cry, ‘*Vive le Roi, et Boufflers.*’ I said a few words in English—those brave fellows rallied round me, and I led them to the fire. Here was another unsuccessful attack: out of 5,000 English, not 1,500 returned, and 1,200 workmen were killed.”*

7. **SIEGE OF PARIS IN THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY.**—Henry the Fourth and his army besieged Paris; a sore famine raged within the city, and in the space of one month 30,000 persons died of hunger—mothers fed on the flesh of their own children. The Spanish ambassador advised them to dig up the dead bodies, and make use of their bones, pounded to compose a kind of paste. This detestable food cost the greatest part of those who ate it their lives.†

MORAL CHARACTER OF THE NAVY.

Our navy has been so much the pride and boast of the nation as to make it somewhat hazardous for any one to whisper a word in its dispraise. We have never doubted its deep and general corruption; but we chose to abstain from speaking of it, till we could bring proof the most satisfactory to confirm our statements, and should have space for a pretty full disclosure. Our limits will not permit us even now to give a minute exhibition of the subject; but from two witnesses, one a clergyman who sailed to Russia in one of our war-ships, and the other for many years a midshipman in the navy, we select such illustrations of its character as will perhaps suffice for most of our readers.

The Rev. J. C. WEBSTER, from whose report to the Seamen’s Friend’s Society we take the following extracts, was sent out by that Society to St. Petersburg in 1837. We have the pleasure of a personal acquaintance with the writer; and we have reason to believe that the subjoined extracts give too favorable an impression respecting the real character of our navy. Indeed, the cautious Secretary of the Society was afraid to publish the strongest statements of Mr. Webster’s report; and it would probably be easy for any man at all familiar with our army or navy, to state facts that would startle, disgust and confound the public.

GOVERNMENT AND DISCIPLINE.—It is generally understood that the word of a commanding officer of a man-of-war is law. He can punish at will. A very good regulation, not long since adopted in the navy, is, that punishment can be inflicted *only* under the direc-

* Memoirs of Prince Eugene.

† Villroy’s Memoirs.